



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



March 6, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH
RCC CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR PUBLIC SAFETY
RADIO INTEROPERABILITY CONSULTANCY SERVICES AGREEMENT**

This letter provides advance notification to your Board that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) intends to enter into negotiations with RCC Consultants, Inc. (RCC), the best known source vendor on the subject, for a consultancy services agreement for the Los Angeles Countywide Public Safety Radio Interoperability study.

BACKGROUND

RCC was initially selected through a competitive solicitation process in September 2000 and awarded a Board approved contract "to study and make recommendations for replacing the Fire and Sheriff Radio Communications Systems." The new system would replace two existing and nearly obsolete radio systems with a single modern radio system providing extensive voice and data services, improving coverage throughout the County. As a result of the study, RCC recommended implementing a consolidated radio communications system for Fire, Sheriff, and Office of Public Safety.

RCC was again selected through another competitive solicitation process in July 2005 by the City of Los Angeles and awarded a City contract to validate the concept of interoperability across Los Angeles County public safety departments, and to study the need for public safety radio communications interoperability between the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), the Port of Los Angeles Police, the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Police, the LASD, the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LACoDHS), and other public safety agencies within the Los Angeles County area.

A Tradition of Service

In this 2005 study, RCC concluded that interoperability between the public safety agencies of the City of Los Angeles and the other public safety agencies in the region would best be achieved with the creation of a shared region-wide voice and data radio system. The new radio system would be shared by LAPD, LAFD, LASD, LACoFD, LACoDHS, and the many municipal public safety agencies within Los Angeles County. It would be created by pooling the agencies UHF band radio frequencies into a shared trunked radio system for voice, and the agencies 800 MHz frequencies into a shared mobile data system. It would also involve pooling other telecommunications resources, such as radio towers.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP), has provided \$765 million in funding under the Fiscal Year 2006 UASI grant program to 35 high-threat urban areas nationwide and 11 cities that were UASI-designees last year. The City of Los Angeles has applied for and been awarded the grant on behalf of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Urban Area and are authorized to administer the grant. It is anticipated that the LASD will be awarded \$2.5 million under UASI in March 2007.

The grant funding was requested to study the feasibility of a countywide single platform interoperable communications system. The grant language calls for an accelerated consultant study to determine the needs of all public safety agencies (those that would be considered first responders) within Los Angeles County. This study must be completed no more than six months after signing of a contract with a needs assessment based on existing recent studies and/or personal agency interviews. The consultant must concurrently write the necessary specifications and requirements so that a Request for Proposal (RFP)/Bid could be released no more than nine (9) months after signing of a contract. This RFP/Bid would provide single platform standards based communications for all public safety agencies in Los Angeles County. This UASI Grant Study is consistent with LASD's long term plan to replace the Fire and Sheriff Radio Communication Systems, and is fully supported by the Regional Interoperability Steering Committee.

JUSTIFICATION

Direct contract negotiations with RCC is recommended because RCC has substantial pre-existing knowledge regarding the Los Angeles Public Safety Radio Communications as a result of their previous studies on the Fire and Sheriff's Radio Communication Systems in 2001 and on the Public Safety Radio Communications Interoperability Needs in 2005. In the course of the above studies, RCC had conducted over 50 interviews with various public safety agencies in the Los Angeles area, and had full understanding on the communication needs of these public safety agencies as well as the strengths and weaknesses of existing radio communications systems in the area.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
March 6, 2007
Page 3

It will take another consultant a year or more to acquire similar understanding and knowledge on the subject. Only RCC has the necessary background and proprietary knowledge that will allow the County to meet the stringent UASI Grant requirements of an accelerated study, needs assessment, and RFP/Bid within the specific time frame.

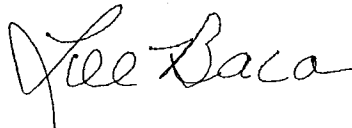
FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

It is estimated that this study would take about 8,000 work hours to complete and would cost approximately \$2.5 million. It is expected that the cost of the study will be fully reimbursed from the UASI Grant through the City of Los Angeles.

CONCLUSION

The LASD will proceed with the contract negotiations in two weeks, and will file a request to approve a service contract once negotiations are complete, unless otherwise instructed by your Board. Should additional information be required, please contact LASD Lieutenant Charles Smith at (323) 881-8275, or Contracts Manager Henry Yee at (323) 526-5223.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF